equipped with navigational aids like DVOR, NDB, ILS, VHF and HF facilities.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 79.27 crore have been approved for taking up major works of construction of New Terminal Building, construction of Cargo complex, re-surfacing of existing main runway, taxi tracks, extension of main runway to 10790 feet, construction of apron, new Technical Block cum control tower, new fire station etc. Rs. 20.42 crore have been spent on above works till February 2003. There is a provision of Rs. 35 crore for upgradation of Amritsar airport in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Global aviation alliance by Air India

2637. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has plans to join a global aviation alliance in the near future;

(b) in what manner this alliance will benefit the national carrier; and

(c) the basis on which Government are going to finalise the alliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Air India has been contemplating joining one of the global alliances to achieve its strategic objectives as it could be advantageous to Air India's long term operational strategy, its route network its approach to emerging markets, fleet plan and schedule of aircraft acquisition. The process of evaluating the pros and cons of joining the particular alliance is underway.

Projects on air connectivity in NER

2638. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) The status of the declaration made by Hon'ble Prime Minister

since 1996 as well the recommendation of the Task Force constituted for development of air connectivity in the North-East, project-wise implementation including creation of a separate regional air services;

(b) the implementation status of installation of the aerobridge, expansion of apron and taxi parking in LGNB Airport;

(c) the management pattern finalized of ATR and its status as to the FF and permissible baggage facility; and

(d) the support received from NEC and other agencies to purchase ATR aircraft and target to place more aircrafts to make the regional air service operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The status of schemes taken under Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiative is enclosed as Statement-I. (*See* below). The status of the recommendations of Task Force constituted for creation of infrastructure is give in Statement-II. (*See* below). As regards creation of a separate regional air service, four ATR-42 50-seater aircraft have been taken on lease by Alliance Air exclusively for operations in the North-East region with a view to providing additional capacity and increased air connectivity in the region.

(b) The scope of work and the drawings have been finalized and the estimates are under preparation by Airports Authority of India.

(c) Air services with ATR aircraft have been started in the North-East by Alliance Air. The free baggage allowance on ATR flights is 15 kgs.

(d) The leased ATR aircraft are to be operated in the North-Eastern Region on the basis of an agreed budgetary grant of Rs. 35 crores per annum *i.e.* Rs. 175 crores during the Tenth Plan period, which has been provided in the budget of North Eastern Council.

Statement-I

Status of schemes taken under Hon'ble Prime Minister's initiative

(Rupees in Crores)

S. No.	Airport/ State	Scheme	Est. Cost	Status
1.	Agartala (Tripura)	Expansion and modification of terminal building for 500 passengers including central air-conditioning, fire station etc.	27.61	Work completed in August, 2002. Building commissioned in Jan., 2003.
		Strengthening and extension of runway to 7500 ft. and allied works	29.19	Work likely to be completed in July, 2003.
		Strengthening and extension of apron and link taxiway	6.17	Work likely to be completed by July, 2003.
2.	Shillong (Meghalaya)	Upgradation of airport for B-737 operation including runway extension, terminal building, ground lighting facilities etc.		The scheme is kept in abeyance as Indian Airlines has intimated that B-737 operation is not safe due to hilly terrain
		Construction of Boundary wall	2.30	Work likely to be completed in June 2003.
		Installation of DVOR including civil and electrical works	1.75	Equipment ordered.
3.	Dimapur (Nagaland)	Strengthening of runway for AB-320 operation	10.27	Completed in August, 2002.
		Compensation for removal of obstruction by State Govt., conversion of overhead lines to underground cables and approach funnel	1.84	Work likely to be completed by June, 2003.
		Development of runway strip and drainage system		Estimates under preparation.
		Installation of ILS	2.50	Equipment ordered.

S. No.	Airport/ State	Scheme	Est. Cost	Status
4.	Guwahati (Assam)	Strengthening of runway to 9000 ft.	27.63	Commissioned in 2001-02.
		Construction of new terminal building complex for 1500 passengers	27.55	Commissioned in 2001-02.
		Extension of runway from 9000 ft. to 12000 ft.		kept in abeyance as no firm commitment from airlines.
5.	Lilabari (Assam)	Construction of new terminal building complex for 400 passengers, technical block cum control tower, fire station and car park etc.	16.46	Work completed in August, 2002. Building inagurated in October, 2002.
		Strengthening and extension of runway to 7500 ft., construction of new apron, link taxiway, ground lighting facilities etc.	16.31	Work completed in 2001-02.
6.	Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)	Construction of new airport for 50 seater aircraft operation		Kept in abeyance as no site has been finalized by State Govt. Commissioning of Lilabari airport will take care of traffic of Itanagar as well as Arunachal Pradesh.

Statement-II

Status of the schemes recommended by Task Force Committee for North East Region

(Rupees in Crores)

S. No.	Airport/	Scheme	Est. Cost	Status
1.	Dibrugarh	Strengthening of runway and allied works	13.21	Work completed in April, 1997
		Construction of new terminal building for 500 passengers and associated works	24.58	Land handed over by State Govt. in February, 2003.

S. No.	Airport/	Scheme	Est. Cost	Status
		Strengthening and extension of runway of 8000 ft.	16.18	Land yet to be handed over by State Govt.
2.	Dimapur	Construction of the new terminal building	14.90	Work completed in July, 1997
		Strengthening of runway for AB-320 operation	10.27	Completed in August, 2002.
		Compensation for the removal of obstruction by State Govt., conversion of overhead lines to under-ground cables and approach funnel	1.84	Likely to be completed by June, 2003.
		Development of runway strip, grading of ground for installation of glide path and localizer, construction of ILS building	6.20	Land taken over from ARTC in November, 2002. Estimate under finalization.
3.	Guwahati	Expansion of apron	2.53	Work completed in May, 1998.
4.	Imphal	Expansionn/modification of terminal building	18.26	Work completed in November, 1999.
		Construction of new Technical Block-cum-Control Tower	2.53	Work completed in October, 2000.
		Resurfacing of runway, apron, taxiway and construction of isolation bay	20.94	Work likely to be completed in July, 2003.
5.	Silchar	Expansion/modification of terminal building	5.85	Work completed in July, 1999.
		Strengthening and extension of runway to 7500 ft. and associated works	31.00	NOC awaited from MOD/AHQ.
6.	Jorhat	Construction of new link taxiway	1.10	Work completed in 2001.
7.	Tezpur	Construction of new civil enclave and associated works	21.50	Commissioned in June, 2001.